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Americans have been learning a great deal about U.S. intelligence in the past few weeks. Rep. George Mahon (D-Tex) thinks too much.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has some of the best scientific brains in the nation. But it has suffered enough set-backs that it is under heavy fire by some congressmen who want it brought under closer supervision.

Next to the Pentagon, CIA headquarters is the largest government building in Washington. There probably are about 10,000 employees at the organization's headquarters which covers some 9 acres.

The CIA buys or obtains about 200,000 pieces of literature each month from Russia, the Soviet European bloc and Red China. Nothing is too trivial to interest the CIA—railroad timetables, texts of speeches by minor Russian functionaries, the pig population of the Ukraine, what movie is being shown in Kiev. The CIA has a translating computer that turns Russian into English at the rate of 30,000 words an hour.

Every word uttered in Radio Moscow broadcasts is monitored. A CIA girl in a listening post heard Moscow broadcast a vague item for publication in a provincial Russian Journal. She sent it along to Washington where it was fitted in with other information.

What it added up to was several hours advance notice that the Soviet Union intended to resume nuclear testing.

The U-2 planes over Russia furnished information about the Soviet Union that could have been obtained in no other way. It was bad luck that Powers was forced down.

Espionage experts say the worst mistake the U.S. officials made was to admit that Powers was a spy. They should have stuck to their original story that he was a weather surveyor accidentally blown off course.

Now the CIA is trying to live down the disastrous blow to American prestige when anti-Castro forces attempting to invade Cuba were repulsed and forced to surrender. The CIA was in on the planning.

It is this nature and the subsequent arms buildup by the Soviet Union that put the administration on the defense. Mahon says the Kennedy administration "has mistakenly allowed itself to be goaded into revealing information detrimental to our best interests."

The remark of Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R-N.Y.), a member of the administration in its handling of the Cuba situation, was: "Any steps taken now to protect our national



Keating



Mahon

security will have my support. Any attempt to suppress information simply to avoid embarrassment to government officials deserves no consideration."

Secrecy is repugnant in a democracy but intelligence carried on in secret is vital to the nation's security when the world is divided into opposing forces. Both Rep. Mahon and Sen. Keating's remarks have merit.

President Kennedy must find a way to gain confidence of Congress and the people without endangering the work of the CIA.